

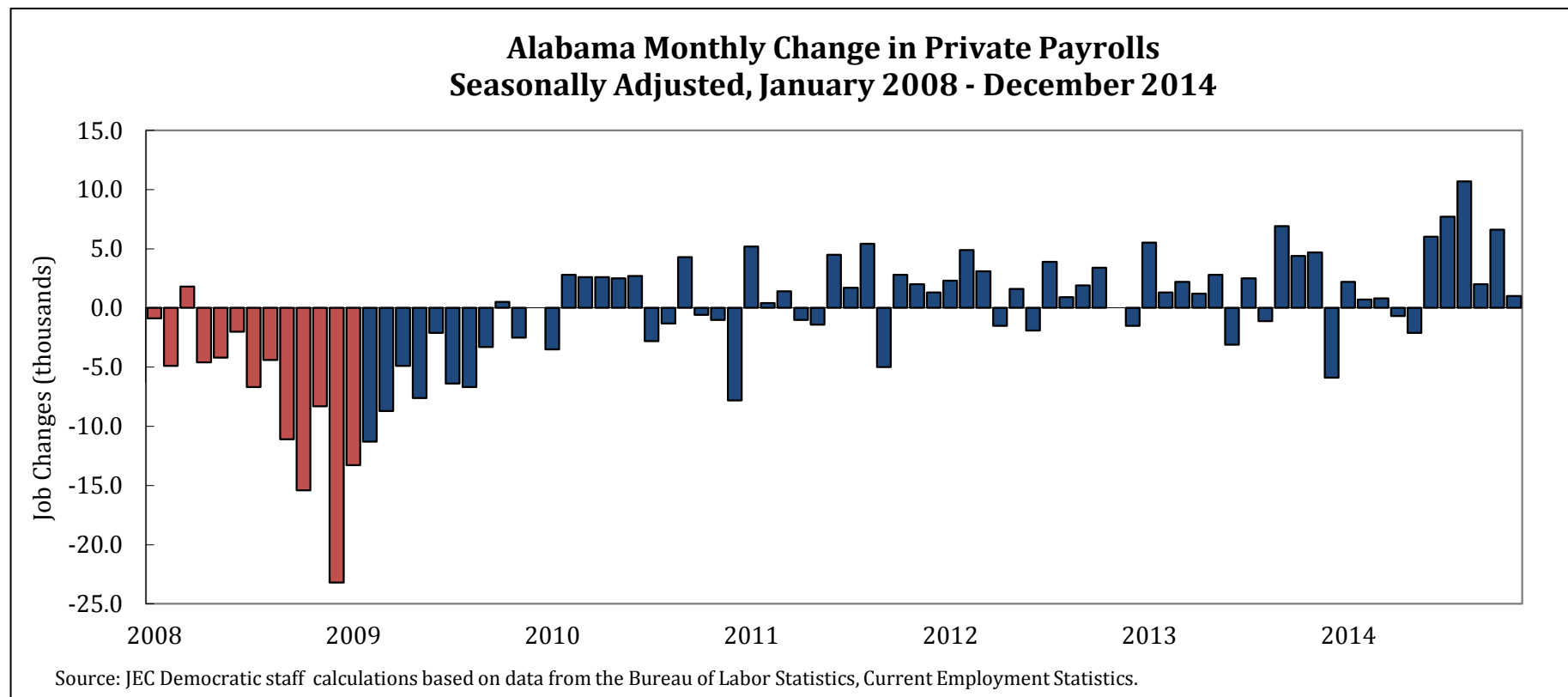


ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT: ALABAMA

Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs and unemployment data through December 2014

JOBS

- In December, private-sector employment in Alabama grew by 1,000 jobs. Over the past year, the Alabama private sector has added 29,000 jobs. This compares with an increase of 25,800 jobs over the 12 months ending in December 2013.
- Alabama private-sector employers have added 94,700 jobs (an increase of 6.4 percent) since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment.
- In Alabama, the following sectors have posted the largest job gains since February 2010: leisure and hospitality (26,900 jobs), professional and business services (22,100 jobs) and education and health services (12,800 jobs).
- The Alabama sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms since February 2010 are: leisure and hospitality (16.1 percent), professional and business services (10.8 percent) and education and health services (6.0 percent).



UNEMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Alabama was 5.7 percent in December 2014, down 0.3 percentage point from November. The rate is down 0.4 percentage point from one year earlier and is below its recent peak of 10.4 percent in December 2009.
- 119,800 Alabama residents were unemployed during December 2014, down from a recent high of 221,400 in September 2009. There are still 38,200 more people unemployed in Alabama than when the recession began.
- In Alabama, initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits totaled 17,570 during December, up 5.7 percent from the previous month. Total initial claims over the past 12 months are down 15.3 percent from their level over the 12 months before that.

EXPORTS

- In Alabama, exports totaled \$1.6 billion in November and \$19.0 billion over the past year, up 0.7 percent from the 12 months ending in November 2013 (inflation-adjusted dollars).
- Alabama exports over the past 12 months are up 17.7 percent from their level in the same 12-month period four years earlier (inflation-adjusted dollars).

HOUSING

- Home prices in Alabama increased by 2.4 percent from the third quarter of 2013 to the third quarter of 2014 (the most recent quarter for which data are available). They are up 2.8 percent since their recent low in the second quarter of 2011 but remain 7.2 percent below their pre-housing-crash peak.
- Housing starts in Alabama totaled 9,360 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in November 2014, a decrease of 39.2 percent from October.
- Within the South census region, which includes Alabama, sales of new single-family homes totaled 253,000 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in December 2014, an increase of 17.7 percent from November. Sales of existing single-family homes increased by 4.9 percent to 1,910,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from November to December 2014.

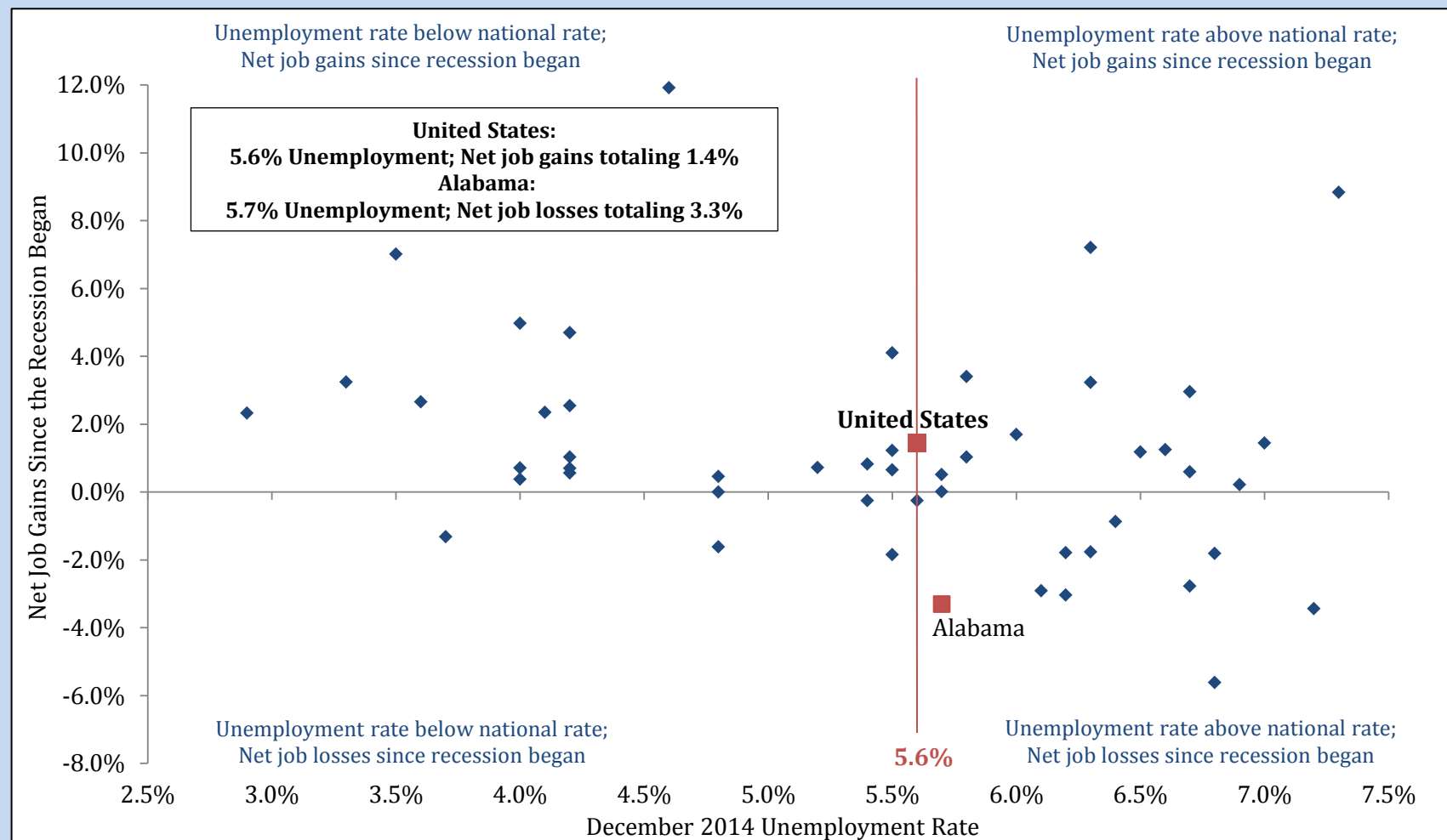
* For Alabama-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Alabama office: <http://www2.dir.state.al.us/>

How Does Alabama Compare to Other States?

Workers across the country were hit hard during the recent recession. Since then, employment in some states has returned to pre-recession levels, while employment in other states remains below pre-recession levels. The chart below allows for a comparison of Alabama to other states using two metrics.

The unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor-market conditions in Alabama, while net job gains since the recession began (current nonfarm jobs as a share of jobs prior to the recession) measures progress toward labor-market recovery (vertical axis).

States falling in the upper left quadrant have net job gains since the start of the recession and unemployment rates lower than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower right quadrant have higher unemployment rates than the United States overall and are still experiencing net job losses relative to pre-recession levels.



Note: The figure above excludes North Dakota, which has a current unemployment rate of 2.8% and net job gains totaling 31.5% since the start of the recession.

STATE QUICK FACTS

		Alabama	United States
Unemployment Rate	December 2014	5.7%	5.6%
	December 2013	6.1%	6.7%
	December 2012	6.8%	7.9%
	December 2011	7.3%	8.5%
Percent of Population Who Are Veterans	2013	9.8%	9.0%
All Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2013	5.6%	6.6%
Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2013	5.7%	9.0%
Median Household Income (2013 \$)	2013	\$ 41,381	\$ 51,939
	(CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement) 2007	\$ 47,424	\$ 56,436
Poverty Rate	2013	16.7%	14.5%
	(CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement) 2007	14.5%	12.5%
Percentage Without Health Insurance	2013	13.6%	14.5%
(American Community Survey)			